

Developing recommendations on waterfowl hunting zones and season structures for 2017-2020.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) allows states to make changes to waterfowl hunting zones and season structures every five years. The next submission date for zone boundary changes is May 2016.

States have the authority to select zones and season structures, but they must fall within federal guidelines. The USFWS defines a zone as “a geographic area or portion of a State, with a contiguous boundary, for which independent dates may be selected for the regular duck seasons.” Zones must conform to one of the following options: 1) no more than four zones with no splits, 2) split seasons (no more than three segments) with no zones, or 3) no more than three zones with the option for a two-way (two-segment) split seasons in one, two, or all zones.

The Wildlife Bureau will consider hunter input, hunter surveys, harvest and participation information, and waterfowl migration patterns while developing a recommendation. This recommendation will be presented to the Natural Resource Commission for approval prior to submission to the USFWS by May 1, 2016.

Stakeholders wishing to provide input may do so by contacting:

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